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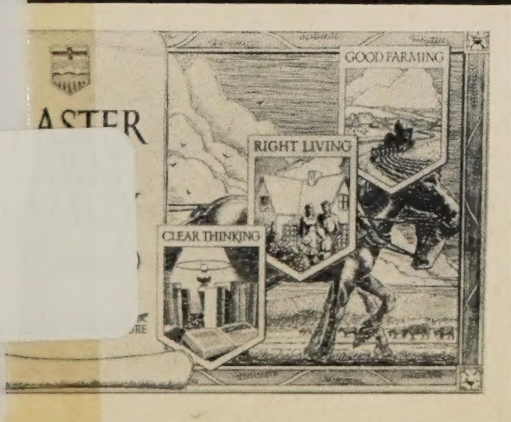
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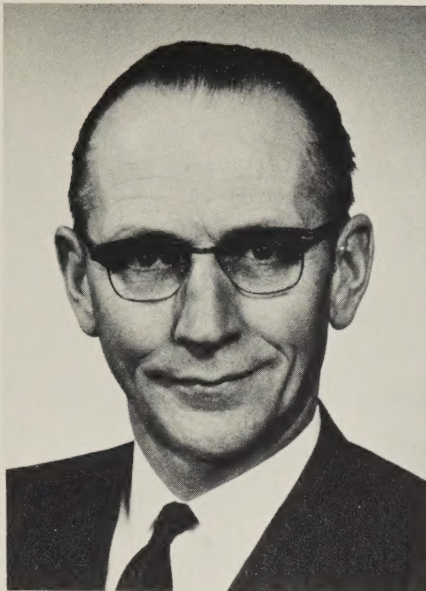


1969 MASTER FARM FAMILY OF ALBERTA



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FOREWORD

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the growing number of Alberta Master Farm Families.

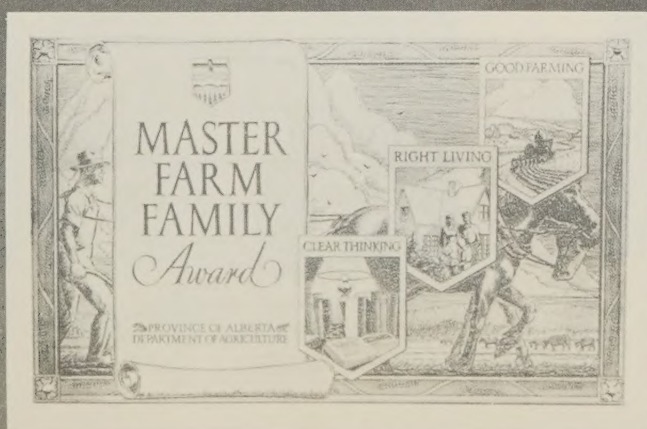
The Don Merrill family of Hill Spring, the George Templeton family of Readymade, the Bob Thirsk family of Kelsey and the Cecil Peacock family of Alliance all exemplify fine leadership for Alberta agriculture.

The legacy of worthwhile citizenship which these parents have conveyed to their families is immeasurably valuable. Our province is so much the richer for having these four families within its boundaries.

The standards they are setting in community leadership, homemaking, business management and excellence in farming are indeed enviable. Despite current difficulties in some areas, Alberta agriculture has a bright future if it follows the lead of these new Master Farm Families.

The Department of Agriculture believes they represent the motto of the Master Farm Family program: "Good farming, right living and clear thinking." On behalf of the Department and the Government of Alberta, I offer my sincerest congratulations.

HONORABLE HENRY A. RUSTE
Minister of Agriculture





DON MERRILL FAMILY

OF HILL SPRING

Born and raised on farms in the Cardston district, Dorothy and Don Merrill grew up with a keen appreciation of rural life and a determination to develop a prosperous farm of their own. The measure of their success lies in the outstanding agricultural operation they now carry on near Hill Spring, and their selection as Alberta Farm Family for 1969.

Of the total 1,030 Merrill acres, 550 are owned outright, the rest are rented. They crop approximately 570 acres, and pasture and hay the remaining non-arable land. Crops produced in-

clude Galt barley, Rodney oats, Gaines winter wheat and approximately 120 acres of seeded forage and hay.

Field production has been marketed mainly through finished beef and lambs of high quality. A herd of 53 crossbred cows produces each year approximately 50 calves. An additional 50 feeders are purchased and fed out and a flock of 112 crossbred ewes produces a profitable 150 per cent lamb crop.

Every member of the family contributes to the success of the farm. Mother, father, five sons



The handsome home, as well as all other buildings on the farmstead, were completely built by Mr. and Mrs. Merrill.



Seven-year-old daughter Karen learns the arts of the kitchen from her mother.

and a daughter all share in the planning and the work involved. Each child has specific responsibilities such as looking after the ewes in lambing, helping with haying, stacking bales, and feeding livestock. All of the children have educational bank accounts accumulated largely from earnings realized from their work.

The oldest son, Wayne, 20, is presently serving on a church mission in Europe and plans to attend university on his return to Canada. Phillip, 18, is attending university this year. Still in elementary school are Rodney, 13; Kurt, 10; Jamie, 9; and Karen, 7.

While developing a successful farm and raising a family, the Merrills have not been idle in community affairs. Mr. Merrill served on the local school board, Rural Electrification Association; Alberta Wheat Pool Committee and assisted in establishing a municipal seed cleaning plant. Mrs. Merrill has been equally active, campaigning for the Red Cross, teaching swimming, secretary of the baseball association, participating in Home and School Association, and playing the organ for Sunday School. The children are involved in sports and church activities, as well as taking music lessons.

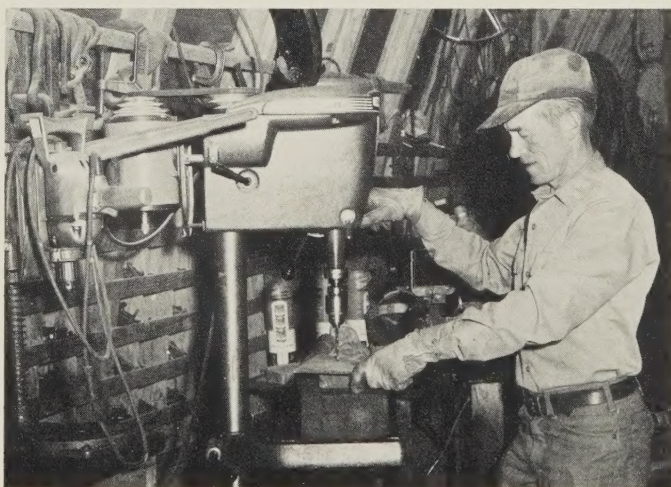
A graduate of the Olds Agricultural and Vocational College, Don Merrill has taken advantage of agricultural extension courses to attain a variety of manual abilities. His skill in building and Dorothy Merrill's talents as a designer are evident in the fact they designed and constructed their own farm buildings, including the comfortable, functional home which is set in a beautifully landscaped yard.



Don Merrill watches three of his sons enjoy their favorite pastime, fishing in the Belly River.



Mrs. Merrill's skill with a needle is reflected in the many attractive needle-point and petit-point pictures decorating the home.



Don Merrill does much of his own machinery repairing and welding in his well-equipped shop.



R. D. THIRSK FAMILY

OF KELSEY

Service to the community has become a tradition with the R. D. Thirsk family of Kelsey, and is a major factor in their selection as Alberta Master Farm Family for 1969.

Mr. Thirsk holds or has held more than a dozen executive positions with community, district and provincial organizations associated with government, education, agricultural and social affairs, as well as membership in about twenty other organizations. Mrs. Thirsk is also an active participant in community and district affairs. Currently, she holds five executive positions in various organizations and is working in several

other capacities, mostly for the benefit of the young people of the Kelsey district.

Theo, at 26 the oldest son, holds executive positions in university agricultural organizations and is active in sports, education and community services as well. The four remaining members of the family, Greg, 22, Hugh, 16, Valerie, 10, and Pat, 7, all have their own contributions to make to school, sport and home activities.

The same qualities which have made Bob Thirsk a leader in the community have also resulted in excellent farm production and manage-



The attractive Thirsk farmstead is set in well-treed grounds.



Pat and Valerie are a big help to their mother in the kitchen.

ment. As a registered seed grower, he is recognized for his quality of production and for his reliability. His program of two-thirds crop and one-third summer fallow on his 1,200 acres of cultivated land, together with the judicious use of commercial fertilizer and weed control chemicals, has led to farm productivity well above average. The work demanded by foundation seed production keeps all hands busy during the growing season. Most of the winter is taken up by the seed cleaning operation, carried out completely on the farm.

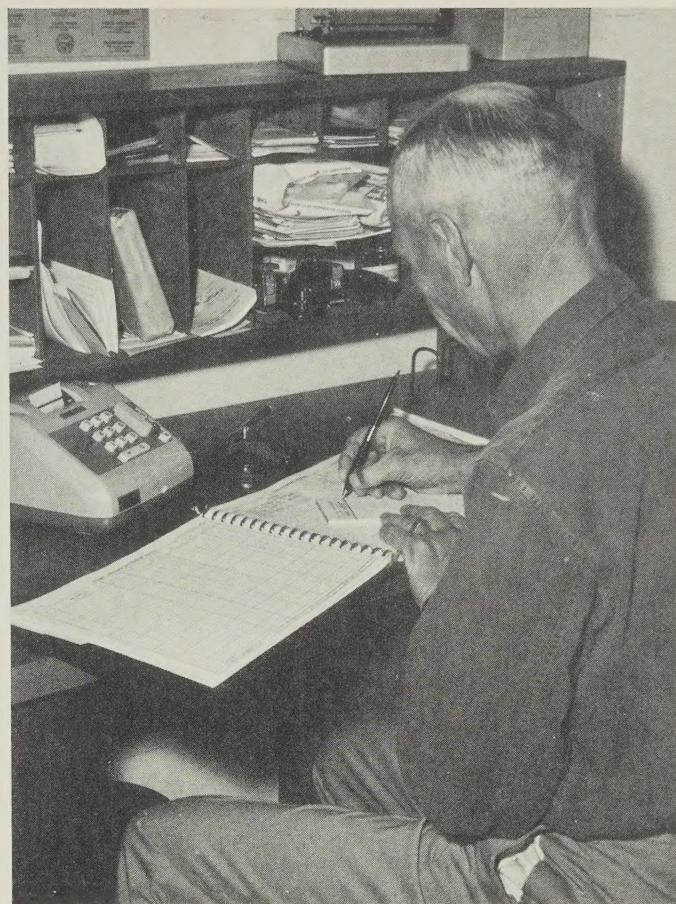
The small enterprises of cattle feeding and swine production are made complementary to seed production through utilization of the screenings.

Mr. Thirsk is a firm believer in sound programming and planning on every level, a policy which has contributed to the success of his activities. Plans for the future include expansion of the farming enterprise on a full-time basis. Planning, especially in the production area, has been made more effective through extensive use of accurate records.

That Mrs. Thirsk also believes in planning is evident in her comfortable and attractive home, which is a centre of activities for all age groups, from junior choir practice to a meeting of the local seed producers association.



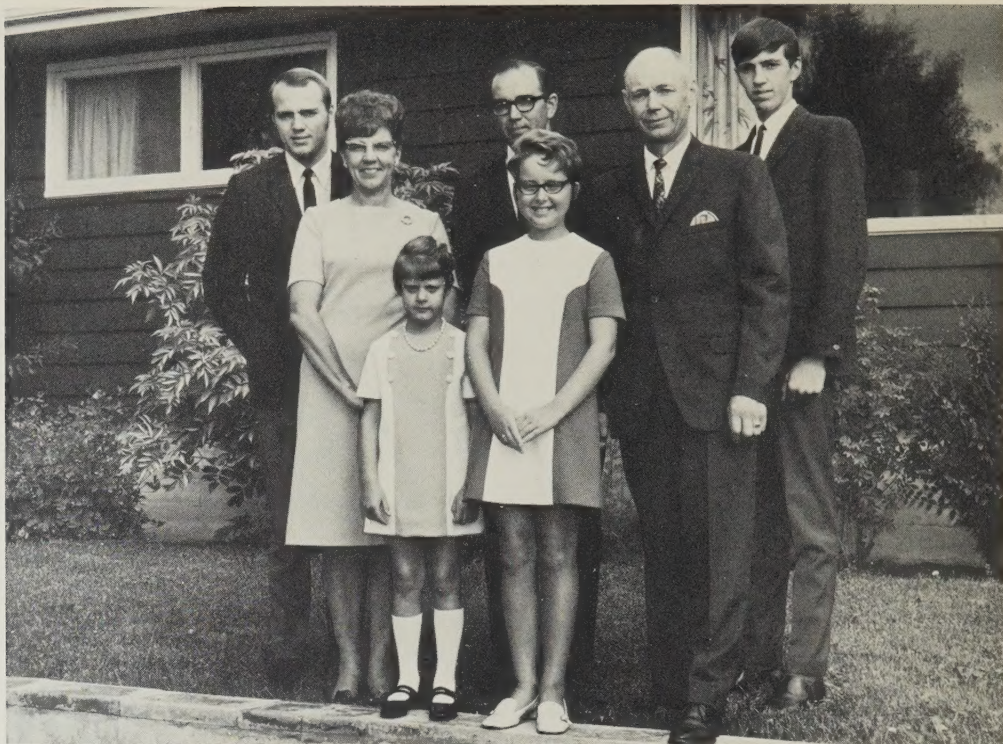
Bob Thirsk and his sons examine a sample of their registered seed crop.



Bob Thirsk finds an accurate set of records of great assistance to an efficient farming operation.



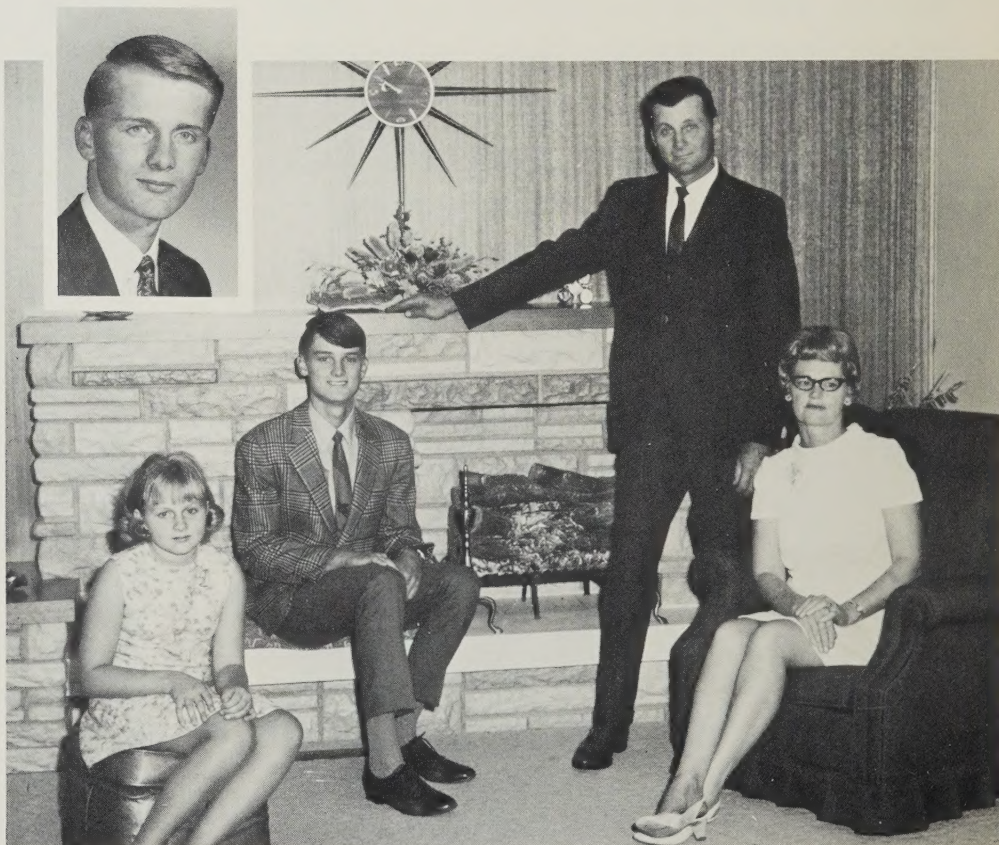
In addition to her duties as homemaker and mother, Mrs. Thirsk holds five executive positions in various community organizations.



THE BOB THIRSK FAMILY

The Bob Thirsk family of Kelsey. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Thirsk, Pat, Valerie and Bob Thirsk. Back row, left to right: sons Greg, Theo and Hugh.

1969 MASTER F



THE GEORGE TEMPLETON FAMILY

The George Templeton family of Readymade. From left to right: Diane, Byron, George and Mrs. Templeton. Son Doran is shown inset.

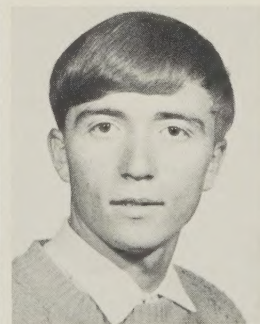
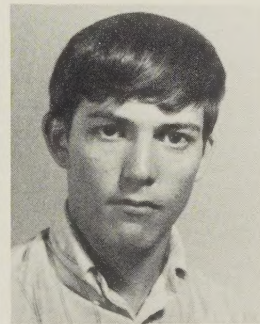


M FAMILIES



THE CECIL PEACOCK FAMILY

The Cecil Peacock family of Alliance. From left to right: Fred, Mrs. Peacock, Kim, Cecil and Gail.



THE DON MERRILL FAMILY

The Don Merrill family of Hill Spring. From left to right: Jamie, Don, Mrs. Merrill, Kent, Karen, Rodney. Inset are sons Philip (top) and Wayne (bottom).



GEORGE TEMPLETON FAMILY

OF READYMADE



Mr. and Mrs. Templeton outside their attractive, sheltered farm home.

Service to the community, efficient methods of farm production and strong family ties are attributes which have helped to earn for the George Templeton family of the Lethbridge District the title of 1969 Alberta Master Farm Family.

The Templetons have been established on their present farm since 1947. Of the 860 acres in cultivation, 60 per cent is in cereals, 15 per cent in forage and 25 per cent in fallow. Astute selection of crops and thorough understanding of production practices; careful control of soil fertility through soil tests; and proper fertilization combined with good management, all help make their crop enterprise very successful.

George Templeton produces seed grain and is one of the few who were able to obtain some Pitic 62 seed wheat. Other varieties used on the farm are Winalta winter wheat, Thatcher spring wheat and Galt barley. The cropping history of each field, the times and rate of application of all pesticide, cultural or other treatments are included in the accurate records maintained.

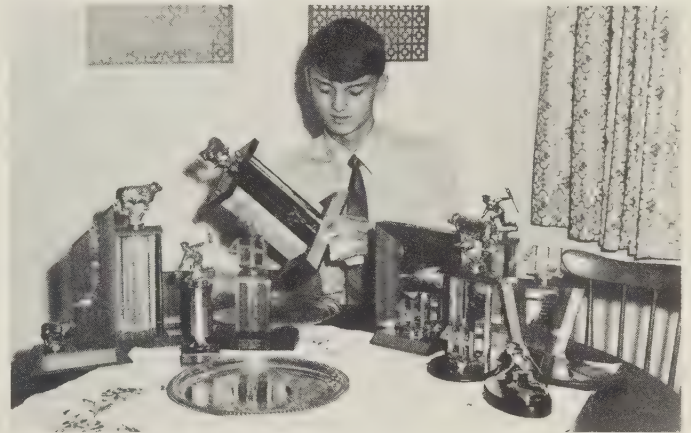
The beef herd consists of 23 registered Hereford cows which produced 22 calves this year. This purebred herd is on the Federal-Provincial Beef Cattle Performance Testing Program. Approximately 200 additional high quality beef heifer calves are purchased annually in the fall. These are wintered and grown out economically on irrigated pastures during the summer. The heifers are bred to performance tested bulls from George's purebred herd and sold in the fall as replacement heifers for commercial cattle operations. The high quality of these animals due to rigid selection, the growth development from the lush pastures, and the growth potential of calves from these heifers and performance tested bulls, have placed them in great demand.

Both Joyce and George Templeton have made numerous contributions to community service. A former chairman of the Readymade School Board, George is now in his sixth year as a board member. He is a director of the County of Lethbridge Seed Cleaning Co-op, Vice-President of Readymade Barley Growers Ltd., a seven year member of the Agricultural Service Board and Secretary of the Alberta Wheat Pool Advisory Committee and has held the offices of president and secretary of the Readymade FUA local. A founder and leader for 6 years of the Readymade 4-H Beef Club, he is now assistant leader, while Mrs. Templeton serves on the advisory committee. She also teaches Sunday School and is a past president of the Readymade Home and School Association, and a former secretary and vice-president of the FWUA.

Despite this busy schedule, the Templetons have always maintained a close family life with their three children. Doran, 19, has completed his first year in business education at the Olds Agricultural and Vocational College and hopes to return to farming on graduation. He has just returned from a three month trip to Germany under an agricultural exchange program. Byron, 16, a Queen Scout and winner of many 4-H awards, has just completed Grade XI. Diane, 10, is in Grade V and a capable helper for her mother.



Daughter Diane takes a lesson from her mother in the hand-finishing of porcelain figures.



Byron Templeton, a Queen Scout, polishes his collection of 4-H and sporting trophies.



The Templeton's main beef enterprise centres around 200 bred heifers sold each year. The purebred herd of performance-tested Herefords supplies the bull-battery for the heifers.



George Templeton and son Byron inspect a portion of their 1969 crop.



CECIL PEACOCK FAMILY

OF ALLIANCE

The Cecil Peacock family of Alliance, named Master Farm Family for 1969, maintains an operation which is notable for its size and success even in an area of extensive farms. Their 2,500 acres of cultivated land are the result of expansion through purchase, rental and land development. Cropping practice is determined to a considerable extent by moisture availability in the spring, but generally follows the pattern of 60

per cent crop and 40 per cent summer fallow. Fertilizer use, based on soil testing, is a regular practice and is evident in the stands of both registered and commercial crops. The area appears to be especially favorable for rape-seed production and this potential is being utilized very effectively.

Complementing the field crop enterprise is a feeder operation that finishes approximately 350



The Peacock house was remodelled three years ago to plans drawn up by the family.



Gail, Kim and their mother enjoy all the conveniences of their modern kitchen.

animals per year. About forty of these are raised in a cow-calf operation. The remainder are purchased. In addition a purebred herd of a dozen Hereford cows and a prize-winning bull is just nicely started.

A spread of this size requires additional help and Mr. Peacock's excellent management policy has enabled him to keep his present assistant for 12 years. The excellent relationship between employee and employer is strengthened by such factors as summer holidays, the use of a farm vehicle and the provision of a separate farm and homestead.

The impressive productive aspect of the Peacock farm is matched by the development of home and family. The spacious house was remodelled only three years ago, to plans drawn up entirely by Mr. and Mrs. Peacock. This was done at that time with the intention of providing the children with a modern environment in which they could grow up. Fred, the oldest, is now 19 and his sisters, Gail and Kim, are 13 and 11 respectively. Fred and his father are taking flying lessons and the entire family is active in both summer and winter sports, including riding, swimming and skiing.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Peacock have made sizeable contributions to community life. Cecil is a member of several agricultural groups, a former director of United Feeders, now disbanded, and was a leader in local scout and cub activities. His wife is president of the United Church women, and has been a keen worker in the cubs and scouts committee. Both are active in various community and sports organizations.



Fred and his father inspect a portion of their cattle operation.



The interior of the Peacock home is brightened by flowers from their attractive gardens.



The size of the Peacock operation calls for an extensive investment in efficient machinery.



1949

J. G. DUSSEAUT FAMILY VIMY
W. J. EDGAR FAMILY INNISFAIL
L. R. JENSEN FAMILY MAGRATH
J. E. MELENKA FAMILY WARWICK
JOSEPH PAQUETTE FAMILY DONNELLY

1950

EMILE CAMMAERT FAMILY ROCKYFORD
CHARLES KALLAL FAMILY TOFIELD
ROY BALLHORN FAMILY WETASKIWIN
E. S. PARSON FAMILY BOYLE
FRED LABRECQUE FAMILY SPIRIT RIVER

1951

J. G. POROZNI FAMILY WILLINGDON
J. W. HOSFORD FAMILY SOUTH EDMONTON
FLOYD GILKYSON FAMILY LA GLACE
VICTOR WATSON FAMILY AIRDRIE

1952

JESSE COLE FAMILY CLIVE
JOHN LAMBERT FAMILY MANNING
E. R. LEWIS FAMILY STONY PLAIN
J. H. SCHMALTZ FAMILY BEISEKER
JOHN SKRYPITSKY FAMILY MUNDARE

1953

FRANK JACKSON FAMILY KEG RIVER
ERNEST BELZIL FAMILY ST. PAUL
EMIL KVARNBERG FAMILY BUFORD
LESTER LOHR FAMILY ERSKINE
HOWARD HYMAS FAMILY ROSEBUD

1954

HARLIE CONRAD FAMILY CLAIRMONT
MARTIN ARNDT FAMILY BARRHEAD
ADAM BUYER FAMILY CARBON
W. R. STORCH FAMILY GARDEN PLAINS
A. W. KING FAMILY HIGH RIVER

1955

THE ROBINSON FAMILY PINCHER CREEK
B. O. BROWN FAMILY ACME
CHRIS SCHNEIDER FAMILY VEGREVILLE

1956

A. D. FRASER FAMILY TEEPEE CREEK
ALFRED ROSE FAMILY ROCKY MTN. HOUSE
JOHN ROZMAHEL FAMILY VIKING
WILFRED McGILLIVRAY FAMILY COALDALE

1957

NO AWARDS

1958

JAMES McCULLOCH FAMILY DIDSBURY
MEL WOOD FAMILY TOFIELD
ANDREW JESPERSON FAMILY STONY PLAIN

1959

A. M. ROBERTSON FAMILY CARSTAIRS
GEORGE COWLING FAMILY HIGH RIVER

1960

H. M. HANEY FAMILY IRON SPRINGS
J. R. CROZIER FAMILY ST. ALBERT
ARTHUR BATES FAMILY ACME
CHRIS OESTER FAMILY PARADISE VALLEY

1961

G. R. POWLESLAND FAMILY DEL BONITA
E. SCHIELKE FAMILY CARSTAIRS
J. W. PEARSON FAMILY EDBERG
MARTIN FELSTAD FAMILY DAPP

1962

GEORGE DECHANT FAMILY FAIRVIEW
ALBERT KAMPS FAMILY LACOMBE
N. SIGURD NIELSON FAMILY STANDARD
J. H. McLAUGHLIN FAMILY SPRUCE GROVE

1963

DONAT DUMONT FAMILY BONNYVILLE
MEL QUANCE FAMILY GADSBY
EWALD KADATZ FAMILY SOUTH EDMONTON
GEORGE DUDLEY FAMILY MAGRATH

1964

CHARLIE MOORE FAMILY DEBOLT
KEN BURNS FAMILY DIDSBURY

1965

ALBERT SEUTER FAMILY SOUTH EDMONTON
PETE MORISON FAMILY AIRDRIE
MIKE DUPILKA FAMILY ATHABASCA
ALBERT SORENSON FAMILY BERWYN

1966

LIONEL BIRD FAMILY CARSTAIRS-CREMONA
ELMER JENSEN FAMILY STANDARD

1967

WALTER V. BORAS FAMILY PICTURE BUTTE
DON E. PURSER FAMILY PARADISE VALLEY

1968

ARTHUR ARRISON FAMILY BASSANO

1969

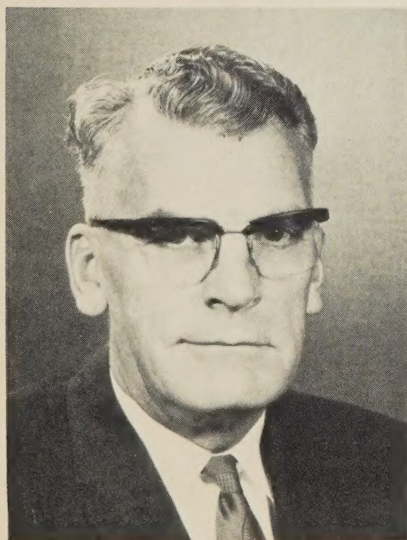
DON MERRILL FAMILY HILL SPRING
BOB THIRSK FAMILY KELSEY
GEORGE TEMPLETON FAMILY READYMADE
CECIL PEACOCK FAMILY ALLIANCE

ULTIMATE SATISFACTIONS

The successful achievement of a satisfactory balance between the forces and demands associated with economic progress and the more demanding but less defined social needs of man in his community is the highest goal on the horizon.

A continuous struggle for economic growth and financial security too often preoccupies and motivates man's actions. The achievement of this highly desirable goal by itself has generally been found by human beings to be an empty illusion of success. This is because economic achievement is too often associated with the accumulation of material possessions, wealth and economic power. Those who have achieved an economic pinnacle often find that wealth and the associated economic power give little real satisfaction in themselves. They discover true and lasting satisfaction can only be measured in terms of what these acquisitions have contributed to the social and economic progress of their fellow men.

In setting goals for the ultimate degree of satisfactory achievement, the individual must recognize the necessity of balancing attention equally between economic and social programs. Each individual must ask himself the question, "Should I struggle for economic success and achievement or more lasting social goals?" The answer can only come from the individual and I am sure in the final analysis a person's greatest satisfaction will be gained by a carefully planned balance between economic and social progress in harmony with his fellow man.



S. S. Graham,
Director, Extension and Colleges Division,
Alberta Department of Agriculture.

(The 1969 Master Farm Families are the last to be selected under the supervision of S. Stewart Graham who retires in 1970 with a long and distinguished record of service to Alberta agriculture. He first joined the Alberta Department of Agriculture in 1936 as an agricultural fieldman, became District Agriculturist at Lethbridge in 1941 and Supervisor of D.A.s in 1949. Named Assistant Director of Extension in 1956, he was appointed Director in 1959 and assumed his present position when the Department re-organized in 1966.)

THE MASTER FARM FAMILY PROGRAM
WAS INITIATED IN ALBERTA
ON FEBRUARY 17, 1949.

IT IS A POLICY OF THE
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
WHICH SEEKS TO SELECT
AND HONOUR FARM FAMILIES
WHO HAVE MADE AN OUTSTANDING
SUCCESS OF FARMING,
HOME-MAKING AND CITIZENSHIP.



ISSUED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
HONOURABLE H. A. RUSTE,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE



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